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THE XAVIER UNIVERSITY NEWSWIRE

Published since 1915 by the students of Xavier University

90th year, issue 2

week of AUGUST 25, 2004

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Former president remembered

BY TARA DIXON
Senior News Writer

Former Xavier President Father James E. Hoff, S.J., died on Friday, July 23 after a battle with cancer.

Hoff, who is credited with making Xavier into a university of national prominence through improvements to the campus and programs, served as university president from 1991-2000.

Hoff was born on June 23, 1932, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He received a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in philosophy from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. He earned a master's degree in theology from Saint Louis University in 1966 and a doctorate from Gregorian University in Rome in 1969.

Deciding to forgo medical school at Marquette University, Hoff entered the Society of Jesus on August 15, 1953, and was ordained into the priesthood on June 8, 1965.

Before coming to Xavier, Hoff served as Vice-President of University Relations and President of the Creighton Foundation at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

He served as acting dean of Creighton's School of Medicine and taught classes in ethics in health sciences and theology.

Hoff became Xavier's 33rd president on April 21, 1991. During Hoff's tenure Xavier underwent

many positive changes. He helped raise the university's endowment from \$24 million to \$86 million and also helped raise \$125 million during the Century Campaign.

The Gallagher Student Center, Cintas Center, Buenger Hall, and The Commons were built, and the academic and residential malls were created with the closing of Ledgewood Drive.

Hoff, who is credited with making Xavier into a university of national prominence through improvements to the campus and programs, served as university president from 1991-2000.

Hoff also helped to create the weekend degree program and academic learning semesters, as well as the doctoral program in psychology.

He helped establish the Brueggeman center for Dialogue and the National Alumni Association.

Academic and athletic stan-



dards also grew under Hoff, and began to be noticed by national studies.

Between 1991-2000, the average SAT score for incoming students grew from 973 to 1134 and the average GPA climbed from 2.9 to 3.46. In 1995, *U.S. News and World Report* recognized Xavier as one of the top ten master's level universities in the Midwest, a distinction Xavier has held ever since.

Money magazine recognized Xavier as one of the country's 150 best buys and Xavier also earned a place on the John Templeman Honor Roll as one of the nation's

top 100 character-building colleges.

Xavier moved from the Midwestern Collegiate Conference to the Atlantic-10 Conference in 1995, attracting exceptional coaches and student athletes, and giving its athletic programs a national prominence.

Xavier has also been recognized by the NCAA for its consistently high student-athlete graduation rates. Hoff was inducted into the athletic hall of fame at the men's basketball banquet in April.

After his retirement on December 31, 2000, Hoff became chan-

cellor, working in many aspects of university functions, including fundraising, consulting and ministry. He also taught theology classes.

He continued to serve the community directing retreats and volunteering with Hospice of Cincinnati, as well as serving on the boards of Chatfield College, Public Allies Cincinnati, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, and Creighton University.

Five months before his death, Hoff was diagnosed with cancer of the kidney, which spread to his liver and lungs. He died on the morning of July 23, 2004.

Manresa moves in record number freshman



Senior Danielle Erney carries a freshman's luggage during move in day.



Junior Besty Hoover works hard, for the full story please see page 2.

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AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM

BRIEFS

Meg Nalezny & John Thomas,
EditorsNews Room: 745-3122
newswire-news@xavier.eduHealth Insurance
Waiver Cards

Do not forget to send your health insurance waiver cards to the Health and Counseling Center. Beginning last year, Xavier initiated a new waiver policy: The Health and Counseling Center is charging every full-time undergraduate student for the school's insurance until they send in proof that they have other coverage.

The deadline to send your waiver cards in is September 3 and after that the \$868 charge will be on your account permanently.

Annual Pignic on
green space

From 4-8 p.m. on Saturday, Xavier will be holding its annual Pignic, where students come together to enjoy live music, inflatable games, a cornhole tournament, and Montgomery Inn ribs. For more information, please contact Joanie Weidner at weidner@xavier.edu or call 513-745-4250.

Fireworks

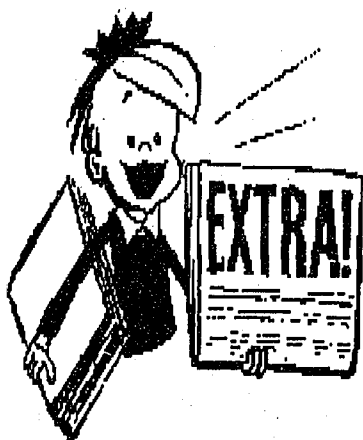
The annual Labor Day fireworks display downtown on the waterfront takes place Sunday, Sept. 5. Shuttles will be running from Buenger Circle between 5 and 8 p.m. to bring students downtown and back.

Hypnotist visits XU

Beginning at 9 p.m., on Friday in the Gallagher Student Center Theatre, Hypnotist Paul Parsons will be putting on a show. Come watch him make you and your friends do crazy things.

Poster sale

From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, near the entrance of the Gallagher Student Center, Beyond the Wall will hold a poster and print sale. For more information, please contact Joanie Weidner at weidner@xavier.edu or call 513-745-4250.



Class of '08 makes Manresa a success

MEG NALEZNY

Campus News Editor

The Manresa orientation team (OT), dressed in lime green t-shirts and ready for action, greeted a record-size freshman class Friday morning as the new students pulled up to the doors of their dormitories with their parents.

While singing and shouting words of welcome, OT members emptied each car of its boxes, bags and the occasional well-worn stuffed animal.

The day began with sun and fair weather, but as the move-in process progressed, OT members found themselves moving boxes in the rain under a gray sky.

While the rain did not dampen OT members' enthusiasm or slow down their progress, according to Manresa staff member junior Jacquie Berting, "It did make the floors a little slippery — we were crossing our fingers, hoping we could avoid sliding down a flight of stairs."

The various events organized for the freshmen, from informative skits and icebreakers to a performance by mentalist Craig Karges, were well at-

tended by the students.

While some might suggest that the large number of participants in the events resulted from the increased size of the class of 2008, OT members credit the spirit of friendship and the fun-conducive environment.

"I think I can easily say that more students attended Manresa than in my freshman year."

— Jacquie Berting
Junior

"I think I can easily say that more students attended Manresa than in my freshman year," said Berting. "We had a really great time getting to know them and I think they got to know each other well, too."

In fact, one group retained every member of its ranks from the begin-

ning to the end of Manresa — a phenomenon almost unheard of in past years, as many current students can attest.

The group called "Magnadoodle," led by junior Tom Nemcek and senior Molly Bayer, remained complete until the last day of Manresa.

Nemcek and Bayer won the Group Leaders of the Year award as a result of their amiability, their group's attendance and their hard work.

When asked about the experience, Nemcek raved about the freshmen, saying, "I was lucky enough to have an incredible group of freshmen who were really excited to be at Xavier. I can't wait to see what they — and the whole freshman class — do on campus."

Among the most popular of events was the Saturday night performance by mentalist Craig Karges.

According to OT members staffing the entrance of the area where Karges was to perform, students were extremely eager to see the performance.

Because of the enthusiastic response to Karges' scheduled show, Manresa group leaders found them-

selves competing for the front rows, hoping to obtain the seats with the best view for their group members.

At the end of the day on Sunday, the Manresa orientation team considered its efforts extremely successful.

"I was lucky enough to have an incredible group of freshmen who were really excited to be at Xavier."

—Tom Nemcek
Junior

Overall, the students and staff involved in planning and executing Manresa felt confident that the members of the class of 2008 enjoyed themselves and learned a little about college life in the process.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINA BLUST

Junior Joe Ring, member of the Manresa orientation team, shows off his muscle as he confidently carries a box into Kuhlman hall.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINA BLUST

Two members of Manresa's orientation team (right) happily assist a freshman and her mother as they unpack their car.

Interested in being a part of the Xavier community? Want to make some money in your spare time? Well, *the Newswire* is looking for writers and photographers. Keep an eye out for us at Club Day on the mall, or give us a call!

Police Notes

June 18, 9 a.m. — A University employee reported the theft of his computer from the Cohen Center.

July 18, 4:45 a.m. — An individual slashed a tire and broke the antenna of a Campus Police vehicle parked in the R1 lot.

July 25, Midnight — An individual was arrested for attempting to break into a business office in Schmidt Hall. Nothing was stolen during the incident.

July 28, 7:40 a.m. — A non-student was arrested on outstanding drug warrants after he was observed soliciting to students and staff near Ellet Hall and its parking lot.

August 3, 7:05 a.m. — Campus Police recovered a loaded .22 caliber pistol from a student's vehicle parked on campus.

August 14, 7:35 p.m. — A bag of books totaling \$600 was stolen from an individual while they were attending an event at the Cintas Center.

Police Note
of the Week

August 16, 7:30 p.m. — An 18-year-old non-student was arrested for trespassing and setting off a fire alarm in the Fieldhouse. A 13-year-old who accompanied the 18-year-old was also arrested on outstanding warrants, and will appear in juvenile court.



New Place? Check out this deal.

Save 10%
with a valid
student I.D.*

Come to Cost Plus World Market for incredible savings on everything you need to spiff up your space. From essentials like chairs, desks and bookcases to funky decorations, candles, posters and much more, Cost Plus World Market is your headquarters for back to school cool. Don't be late! This offer ends September 30.

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- L-Shelves, set of 2, \$119
- Shag Rugs, \$29⁹⁹-\$199
- Dorm Storage Baskets, \$19⁹⁹-\$39⁹⁹
- "Chat Noir" Poster, \$17
- Black Poster Frame, \$29⁹⁹
- 6' Rhaps Palm Tree, \$129

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*Offer excludes food, beverages, gift cards and merchandise already reduced. Offer ends 9/30/04. Call 1-800-Cost Plus for locations and hours or visit us online at worldmarket.com

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THE XAVIER UNIVERSITY

NEWSWIRE

Chavon Mitchell, EDITOR email: NEWSWIRE-OPED@XAVIER.EDU

- STAFF EDITORIAL -

Freedom Center
opening questions

There are always two sides of the street in Cincinnati. The Freedom Center opened its doors with elation and celebration (because when Oprah is there it's always celebratory), ironically, as the purpose of the Center is to illustrate the heinous hardships and insidious conditions African Americans endured as slaves.

Featured at the Freedom Center are ghastly depictions of the privation myriad slaves were subjected to; the goal being that all present prostrate themselves (if only mentally) in thanksgiving for the leisure, luxury and favorable environment that satiates and composes contemporaneous life.

Surely such a well wrought, corporately sponsored, riverfront embellishing, monumental epitaph (of sorts) would receive praise from all. But why are all the protestors out in front of the Freedom Center? And most of them are black - I thought this was for them?

As it turns out the savvy amongst the black community does not feel the nominal concessions given (paid for by your local conglomerate) satisfy the needs of the black community today.

Thus, it was necessary to delve into the black activist community to get answers. Joy Rolland, a well-known (if not notorious) black activist, spoke with me about some of the controversial issues illuminated by the Freedom Center.

One of the pertinent critiques Rolland posited was that the Freedom Center (much like copious elementary school history books) embroidered the role of white abolitionists. Concurrently, the Center muddles the role blacks played by foreclosing the story on how slavery was fashioned, why it was perpetu-

ated, and when exactly it was implemented.

The second issue we discussed concerned the Freedom Center's plausible enhancement of the black community in Cincinnati. Much to everyone's dismay, it hasn't. The fundraising for the center was generated from private donors (think: Hamilton County Prosecutor Michael Allen, Phil Heimlich, and Charlie Luken, et al). The same private donors that support drug barriers in Over the Rhine, panhandling licenses, expelling the Homeless Coalition from downtown, and sweeping the vagabonds out of Washington Park (if you didn't know better it would seem as if Over the Rhine is a targeted neighborhood by some folks).

Even if you do not hail from Cincinnati, anyone with a sense of charity, compassion, ethics, and social progress feels the scarcity Cincinnati has reigned upon its' impoverished communities.

Nevertheless, one edifying compromise that Rolland proposed is that the Freedom Center act as a crux for dialogue between the populace and the leaders, a breeding ground for the exchange of ideas concerning the troubled communities, and effectively improve the conditions of the poor, black neighborhoods.

Summarily, instead of showcasing a (white)-washed interpretation of history, the Freedom Center should to open itself up to the strife of modern African Americans and discover social solutions to social problems. As Rolland put it, the consummate conceivable aspect of the Freedom Center *should* be "To talk about what is *really* going on."

Freedom Center - Promised land or bust?

When did the "L" word
become so dirty in politics?

CHAVON MITCHELL

Opinions and Editorials Editor

As I've watched the political arena unfold over the last several years, I seem to have noticed a trend among many pundits on the left and the right wing.

Somehow, the word liberal became a dirty word that people ran away from and did not want attached to their agenda. Oftentimes when I hear conservatives like Ann Coulter, Sean Hannity or Bill O'Reilly talk, they speak of the "liberals" like some pack of ravening wolves rather than a group of people with a political ideology.

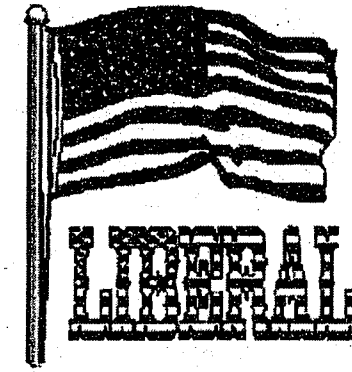
Numerous political experts have said that in this election Bush will try to paint Kerry as a liberal New Englander because of his voting record in the Senate and his history as an anti-war protester. As if painting him as a (shhh, make sure the kids don't hear) liberal, would be political suicide.

When I hear so many in the public eye speak poorly about my fellow liberals, I become despondent and a bit angry. I'm here to take back the word liberal in its entirety. I'm liberal and I'm proud!

"Somehow, the word liberal became a dirty word that people ran away from and did not want attached to their agenda."

Many of the first-year students may not know it but the aforementioned affirmation is something pretty daring to say on Xavier's campus, especially in Cincinnati. Many conservative students whine and complain about the political agenda of the teachers and the student leaders, but let's all be honest for a moment.

The teachers may have a left-leaning political agenda and the former student leaders probably do too. However, they are the minority. As the late former President Reagan and an observant student last year put it, there is a "silent



majority" on this campus that is strongly conservative.

Plus, Cincinnati is a conservative stronghold and the *Cincinnati Enquirer* students pick up for free everyday reinforces the conservative agenda. And, if students would like a taste of conservative news in its finest they always have the option of turning to Channel 35 on the cable provided in their dormitory.

So, conservatives have an outlet on campus, and they probably feel more at home at Xavier than us "tree-hugging, long-haired hippies" do anyway.

I am in no way bitter at the conservatives on campus or their domination in Cincinnati. I may not agree with their political viewpoints, but I am in no way upset about their presence.

Besides, I wouldn't get to hotly debate issues with conservatives if they weren't around. And, as anyone who knows me will attest, I love to debate.

I just figured I'd start out my last year at Xavier University with a bang. I might as well tick off as many people possible in the shortest amount of time. It's the senior mentality and I have fully embraced it in all its glory. So, just to get things straight, I am a liberal.

I try to avoid eating red meat unless I'm starving and it is my only option. I believe in protecting the environment and not being wasteful.

I believe the government that leads this country should be more representative both racially and economically of the people whom they represent. I believe affirmative action is a useful tool in combatting the racial and sexist prejudice that is still ever-present in society.

I would not choose an abortion for myself, but I believe in a woman's right to choose; therefore,

I am pro-choice.

I believe that feminism is not a bad word just because it believes in the equality between men and women. I am a Christian who believes in the separation of church and state. I also believe in gay rights and that gays should be allowed to marry like any other tax-paying, law-abiding citizen in a free country.

I believe in health care for all Americans because I think the right to see a doctor when you're sick is a right and not a privilege.

As an African-American woman, I have a strong sense of racial pride and believe in knowing the history of my people.

Now that you know all these things about me, I would also like to get something clear. Just because I believe these things and am a part of the *NewsWire* staff does not mean that all of us believe the same way.

"I'm here to take back the word liberal in its entirety. I'm liberal and I'm proud!"

I can honestly tell you that there are several people on the staff who would probably disagree with every single statement I wrote above.

Also, because I'm a liberal it does not mean that if you send me a "Letter to the Editor" I will not print it in its entirety. Because of space restraints, we often hold off on printing a letter until the next issue and many times our copy editors change articles because of grammatical errors.

As long as your letter does not personally attack anyone, I will print it.

I encourage you to write in your articles and your opinions on different subjects if you feel strongly enough about it. Whether it is a national, local, or campus issue that has you fuming in your dormitory, don't just complain, write in and voice your dilemma.

If you have something to say, we want to hear it.

I would love to hear what you have to say and I promise not to berate you in the next issue.

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BRIEFS

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Xavier adds two new sports

The Xavier University Athletic Director Dawn Rogers announced that Xavier will now be competing for 17 of the 21 championships in the Atlantic 10 Conference.

With the addition of men's and women's track Xavier will have the opportunity to compete for four more championships with indoor and outdoor track. Xavier has not added a sport since women's golf in 1992.

Steve Nester, who just completed his first year as Xavier's head men's and women's cross country will also guide XU's two newest sports.

Musketeers earn ITA academic honors

The Intercollegiate Tennis Association recently named the Xavier University women's tennis team as a 2003-04 ITA All-Academic Team.

In order to be eligible for the team award, the program must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or above.

The Musketeers posted an average GPA of 3.71 for this past academic year.

In addition to the team honor, Stephanie Bauer, Kristen Clary, Lauren Clary, Kate Lohner, Sarah Potts, and Jackie Vilines were named ITA Scholar Athletes.

Freshman Jeremy Miller from the men's program was also honored as an ITA Scholar Athlete.

Rock & Roll Gymnastics Championships Tour

Olympic and World Champion gymnasts from the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens and other past Olympiads are competing to today's pop music hits.

The gymnastic tour is being held at Nationwide Arena on Thursday, September 9th at 7:00 p.m.

The 16-city gymnastics and pop music event is produced by Edge Entertainment and Inversion Entertainment. The tour will be hosted by pop music sensation JoJo.

Some of the gymnasts competing are United States' Olympians Paul Hamm, Morgan Hamm, and Blaine Wilson.

On the women's side, Russia's Svetlana Khorkina, United States olympians Shannon Miller, and Dominique Moceanu will be participating in the Rock & Roll Gymnastics Tour.

Miller era begins

NEW COACH ASSEMBLES STAFF, PREPARES FOR LIFE AFTER MATTA

BY DAVE GILMORE
Sports Editor

After 12 seasons as an associate or assistant head coach, Sean Miller is finally at the reigns of a major Division I college basketball program.

"I am honored to be the new head coach, at Xavier University," said Miller. "I have a great love for this University and what it stands for. I have enjoyed being a part of our recent success and I am excited about the potential for our future."

Miller was named Xavier's new head basketball coach in July when previous coach, Thad Matta, departed XU for the Ohio State job left vacant by Jim O'Brien. Miller, who served as Xavier's first Associate Head Coach under Matta, begins his reign on the heels of Xavier's deepest run in the NCAA Tournament, in which Matta and company suffered a narrow loss to Duke in the Elite Eight.

Much has changed over the summer though, as the team graduated three starters and Matta left for Ohio State with most of his coaching staff.

"Sean was our first choice from the start," said Athletic Director Dawn Rogers. "We were very fortunate to have a national caliber coach available who also has a clear understanding of the program and who supports the mission of the university."

Miller continued shaping the new face of the program by compiling his coaching staff after most of the coaches from Matta's staff left with him for Columbus.

The mainstays from Matta's old staff were Bill Comar, who retains his position as Director of Basketball Operations, and Mario Mercurio, who will serve as Director of Basketball Administration.

Miller's first hire was Chris Mack, who had previously been an XU assistant until joining former XU coach Skip Prosser's staff at Wake Forest. Mack is also a 1992 Xavier

grad and former captain of the men's team from 1991-93.

Leaving the Buckeye staff for Xavier is Monte Mathis, who comes after four seasons as an assistant coach and video coordinator at Ohio State.

Miller completed his new staff the following week by hiring Kenya Hunter, who was previously an assistant at North Carolina State.

Hunter, a four-year letter winner as a point guard at Duquesne, comes from familiar territory for Miller who also served as an assistant for the Wolfpack.

"Kenya Hunter is somebody that I have known for a long time," said Miller. "At NC State he was a part of a staff that I was also on. During his time there he was involved in a major rebuilding process in the ACC that culminated in three straight NCAA appearances. He is a great person and will be invaluable to our program because of his unique experiences both as a former player and at NC State."

This season Miller will lead a young team riding the wave of experience gained by last season's Atlantic 10 Championship and NCAA tournament run.

The first notable change to the program along with the fresh faces on the bench is a preseason trip to the Bahamas for the exhibition season. The team will travel to the tropics over fall break to compete against local teams in preparation for the season.

Miller also announced his first non-conference docket this week, with bouts against Tennessee, Miami (Fla.), Mississippi State, Oakland, Lehigh, Creighton, Marshall, Indiana Purdue-Fort Wayne. The Muskies' schedule also features local rivalries against Miami(OH) and the annual Skyline Chili Crosstown Shootout against Cincinnati.

The Musketeers open their regular season schedule at the Cintas Center on Nov. 19 vs. Oakland.



PHOTO BY CRAIG RUTTLE/CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

After Thad Matta's (left) departure for Ohio State and Lionel Chalmers' (center) departure for the NBA, Sean Miller (right) takes over a Xavier team looking to redefine itself.

We're looking for sports writers and photographers for this year. Stop by the *Newswire* table at Club Day on

Monday, September 13th

Perks include:

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Games to Watch



Women's Soccer

8/27
at Loyola-Chicago
(Chicago, IL)
7:00 p.m.



Men's Soccer

9/1
vs. Wright State
(XU Soccer Complex)
7:00 p.m.



Volleyball

9/1
vs. Maryland-Baltimore County
(Cintas Center)
7:00 p.m.



Cross Country/Track

9/4
Dayton Flyer Invitational
(Dayton, OH)
9:30 a.m.

BRIEFS

Jimmy Dillon, Editor
Divisions Desk: 745-2878

In case you are interested in seeing if Dan is right in his assessment of "Garden State," or maybe just want to rent the Will Smith classic "Enemy of the State," here is a listing of local entertainment spots.

Movie Theaters

Showcase Cincinnati
1701 Showcase Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45237
(513) 699-1500
www.nationalamusements.com

AMC Theatres Newport On The Levee 20
One Levee Way
Newport, KY 41701
(859) 269-6742
www.amctheatres.com

The Esquire
320 Ludlow Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 281-2750
www.esquiretheatre.com

The Mariemont
6906 Wooster Pike
Mariemont, OH 45227
(513) 272-0222
www.mariemonttheatre.com

Concert Venues

Bogart's
2621 Vine St.
Cincinnati, OH 45219
(513) 281-8400
www.bogarts.com

Mad Frog
1 East McMillan St.
Cincinnati, OH 45219
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A 'State'-ly 'Garden'

'SCRUBS' STAR ZACH BRAFF WRITES AND STARS IN HIS DIRECTORIAL DEBUT

BY DAN COX
Editor in Chief

The thing about most independent movies is that they're usually in one of two formats.

One deals with the everyday world of a unique or interesting character, such as the summer hit, "Napoleon Dynamite."

The other usually deals with a day or two in the life of someone who is about to have their own personal renaissance, which could involve coming to terms with sexual orientation, having a life changing experience or dealing with a curveball that life throws at a character.

"Garden State" falls into the latter category when we look in on the life of Andrew Largeman as he returns home for the first time in 12 years for his mother's funeral.

Zach Braff ("Scrubs"), who plays Largeman, wrote and directed the movie. The dialogue seems extremely realistic, and not too wordy, a pitfall of some independent movies.

The Info

"Garden State"

Newswire Official Grade: A-

Starring: Zach Braff, Natalie Portman, Ian Holm, Peter Sarsgaard, Geoffrey Arend

Rating: Rated R for language, drug use and a scene of sexuality

There's nothing exceptional about the directing, but that's the point.

This is the story of Largeman as he comes home to his dirty, small New Jersey town, and the scenes in the movie reflect just how plain the town appears to be.

It comes out that Largeman's been on medications to suppress his emotions since the age of 10. His father, a psychiatrist, has kept him doped up for the last 16 years for reasons that are slowly revealed during the movie.

When Largeman comes back to New Jersey, he decides to leave the pills at home, and we see what it's like for a character to have emotions and excitement for the first time in memory.

Since a large portion of the film is taken up with Braff doing his best emotionless robot impression as he waits for the drugs to wear off, we



PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO.COM

When it rains, it pours. When it pours, it pretty much sucks. When it pours in New Jersey, it smells even worse.

have to rely on the supporting cast to hold our interest, and hold it they do.

There, his friend Mark, the grave digger, who also robs the graves, takes him to the home of another high school friend who made millions in his early twenties by inventing silent Velcro. Now he sits in his huge mansion and thinks of ways to entertain himself, such as throwing huge parties, or riding a golf cart around his house.

Largeman happens upon one of these parties, which is full of beautiful women who are willing to do anything to get on the millionaire's good side. As the party goes on, Largeman just sits on the couch with a blank face and watches the whole party go by.

The real gem of the movie is Natalie Portman ("The Professional"), who plays Sam. Sam is a

perpetual liar and it's hard to say what will come out of her mouth next, but this intrigues Largeman as he comes out of his personal fog to grasp onto emotions.

It's easy to hate Portman as an actress, especially after the "Star Wars" films, but Sam is what draws Largeman out of his shell and gets him to talk about his relationship with his parents and why he's been on medication for so long. She's a light on the screen when Largeman is still dull and emotionless.

Braff plays Largeman's transition from zombie to normal almost too smoothly. At first, it's perfect. Suddenly a large smile will be on Largeman's face, or he'll be laughing at something when previously he would be sitting there with a blank look on his face.

But suddenly he's got these emotions, and he deals with them

almost too easily. It seems like someone who couldn't remember the last emotion he had would deal with things like his mother's death, feelings for Portman's character or life in general, pretty poorly.

He seems to confront his father about the medication fairly well, and express his emotions perfectly by the end of the movie, something most people can't do in a lifetime of dealing with emotions, let alone a couple days.

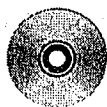
On the other hand, the movie is about his awakening, not the after-effects, and Largeman acknowledges that he'll be spending a lot of time in therapy to come to terms with his new self and feelings.

That would make a good book, but maybe a dull movie. As it stands, "Garden State" only tells half of Largeman's story, but it tells it well, and that's better than most movies.

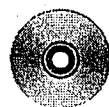


PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO.COM

"Hey babe, I just watched 'The Great Escape.' You wanna jump that fence."



New Releases



The following discs are due for release on or before Aug. 24 ...

Boyz II Men Throwback, Volume 1 (Koch) ... **Clinic Winchester Cathedral** (Domino) ... **Danzig Circle of Snakes** (Evilive) ... **Guided By Voices Half Smiles of the Decomposed** (Matador) ... **Hot Rod Circuit Reality's Coming Through** (Vagrant) ... **Mase Welcome Back** (Bad Boy) ... **R. Kelly Happy People/U Saved Me** (Jive) ... **Whirlwind Heat Flamingo Honey** (Dim Mak)

... all dates are tentative.

Live Wires

Wednesday, Aug. 25
Stiff Little Fingers
@ Riverbend Music Center

Monday, Aug. 30
The Distance
@ Top Cat's

Friday, Aug. 27
Greyhounds
@ Southgate House

Monday, Aug. 30
Sarah McLachlan
@ U.S. Bank Arena

WEDNESDAY

August 25

This is Ryan "Knuckle Sandwich with Mayo" Williamson, and I hope you have all survived the first day of classes. I long for the good ol' days, **when** the first day of school meant discussing what you did on your summer vacation. Then again, considering I **measure** my summer by the number of **Hardy Boys** books I read, I suppose that's not really necessary.

For those of you still crying over leaving your family back in Louisville, stop by the Welcome Back Coffee Hour in the Faces of the World Lounge at 3:30 p.m. It is a great chance to make friends with people who pass the hours on their trip to Xavier by counting time zones, not cows. An international perspective "is a good **thing**," as my mother **Martha Stewart** would say.

Today is also Kiss and Make-Up Day, so I would **recommend** kissing anyone you cross paths with today whom you **might** possibly upset this school year. Pre-emptive kissing and making-up makes for a happier, **healthier** soul.

THURSDAY

August 26

Are your dorm walls looking a bit bare? **Having** trouble getting started in the morning? Perhaps **waking** up every morning to a giant, smiling **Jimmy Hendrix** would help. Although the Poster Sale outside the Gallagher Student Center

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can certainly help make your new room feel more like home, I caution everybody to think twice before purchasing. Will that giant marijuana leaf **seem** quite so cool when your parents are visiting? And what will your lady friend **think** of the Farrah Fawcett poster? Stick with posters of kittens that say "Hang in **There**," and you cannot go wrong.

Now I know it's a Thursday night, and I know that it is ridiculous to even discuss having fun on a weeknight, **but** it is my patriotic duty to inform you of the Bingo Extravaganza in the Gallagher Atrium at 10:00 p.m. I know the siren song of prizes and fun may distract some of you, but please, stick to your **books**.

FRIDAY

August 27

If you are **still** awake after that rough night of Bingo, then try hypnotist Paul Parsons, tonight at 9:00 p.m. in the Gallagher Center Theatre. You never know what you may learn when **your** friends are **hypnotized**. For example, my parents, under hypnosis, told me I was adopted. Of course, they **called** a bottle of gin "hypnosis," but you **understand** what I am saying.



USA! USA! USA!

SATURDAY

August 28

Ever wondered why they call it "Montgomery Inn"? It's not a **real** inn, or so they informed me when I tried to sleep there (informed me very **rudely**, I might add). Well, semantics aside, they make some mighty tasty ribs, and they will be available for free at 4:00 p.m. as **part** of the student picnic. I prefer the filet mignon, but ribs are fine for **commoners**. There will also be games, live music, and a cornhole tournament, which is **apparently** "an Ohio thing." No comment.

I will however, mention that my co-Calendar City writer, Dr. Josh is probably the best example of perfection on **earth** at this moment. And his extremities, all of them, are **embarrassingly** large.

SUNDAY

August 29

Anyway, speaking of perfection, the Xavier "Spirit Celebration" is today on **campus**. If you lack any type of spirit, you should probably show up at this event, as your **spirit** will be replenished with wonderful goodness and spirited Dr. Joshness.

There's not much going on today, it's Sunday, you should probably take a day of rest, especially if you've been attempting to reach the level of perfection of Dr. Josh. One time Dr. **Josh** got a "C" on a math test, but he did it on purpose. If anyone knew just how smart he actually is, the government would take him **away** and probe his brain and stuff.

MONDAY

August 30

I hope you **saved** some leftovers from Saturday's rib bonanza, because today is China's Festival of **Hungry Ghosts**. No word yet on whether the ghosts will make it to the Queen City, but I would not want the ghost of Chairman **Mao** raiding my refrigerator. [Insert picture of **Slimer** as a hungry ghost]

Today is the birthday of Mr. Andy Roddick. Every man here **should**

thank him **personally** for breaking up with Mandy Moore. She was too good for him anyway, isn't that right, Mandy?

Warren Buffett also celebrates a **birthday** today, but since only the most enthusiastic MBA students know who he is, I will just let that pass without comment. I sure wish I was in his will **though**...

TUESDAY

August 31

Students awarded on-campus **employment** have another opportunity to fill out the necessary paperwork in Gallagher 330 today at 1:00 p.m. If you want to be the next Warren Buffett, you **have** to start somewhere, so it might as well be a job on campus, something like washing Fr. Graham's SUV perhaps.

Education majors, celebrate! Today is the birthday of Maria Montessori, whose goofy **name** inspired a whole new method of educating children. I never went to a hippy **Montessori** school, but I hear they beat the children with licorice instead of belts. Also, there is a ton of **glitter** in the curriculum.

Man, I can't stop thinking about Dr. Josh, it's not like I'm in love with him; it's just that I respect him **SO** much. One **time**, we were on an arctic expedition and a group of Arctic **Alligators** attacked us, but Dr. Josh fought them to the death, their death, with only a butter knife and a bandana. Man, that **dude** is cool, and single, from what I hear.

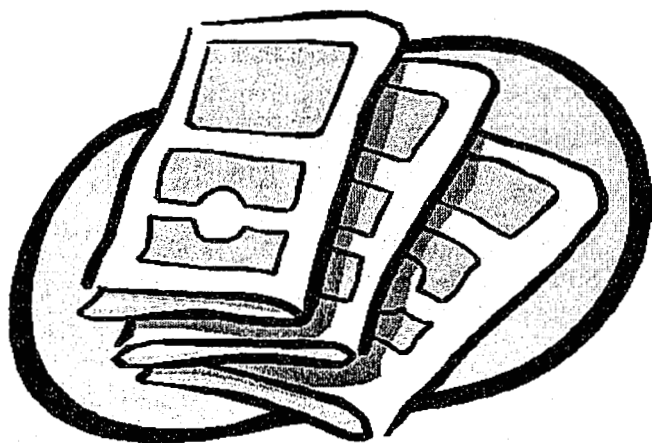
Help Wanted

J. Crew in Kenwood Mall is hiring part-time employees. If interested, call Thuy Cao or Leah Heekin at 891-6500.

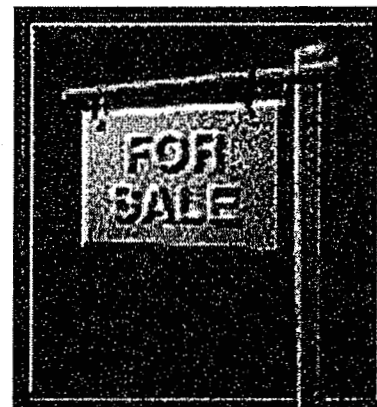
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